

SHUMWAY FILES FOR DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION

State Land Commissioner Gives Out
Announcing His Candidacy for
Second Term.

G. L. Shumway, state land commissioner, on Friday issued a statement announcing his candidacy for nomination on the Democratic ticket for a second term. His statement was as follows:

"Often that which we most desire to do, we cannot do, but the door of opportunity opens unexpectedly in other ways.

"A year and a half ago I came into this office expecting to do big things with water power, and mineral laws and developments."

But the Niobrara, Loup and the Platte (the first two named being among the best water power streams in the world because of their steady flow) are still unharnessed in a few places.

A mineral statute is on the books, but a stroke of the pen on the part of the district court of Lancaster county has almost our work of several years and rendered the legislative act temporarily useless. It must remain until October.

A conference committee composed of Representatives Fuller, Ollis and Cornin, and Senators Kohl, Adams and Bushee, recommended \$10,000, for revaluing and rechecking school lands. To this excellent recommendation both branches of the legislature agreed.

As a result about fifty counties have been reappraised. The returns are not so much as anticipated, but it is placing in the school fund each month more than it has the entire year and a half, and it will continue to be expended from the appropriation to increase the income.

Based upon returns the value of school lands has increased two million dollars and will probably increase another million before the close of 1918. These three million dollars of assets needed only an assertion on the part of the state board to realize an income from them for the state schools for the value was already there. The assertion was made by reappraisal. The next biennium will see these tangible assets of the state, earning money on values more in harmony with the true value of the estates, as the agricultural possibilities of the lands are better understood and encouraged.

Mineral values are yet to be demonstrated and realized upon. The few thousand dollars that we have received must be refunded or the courts must settle matters so that executives can proceed. Otherwise there will be no returns from minerals unless the United States takes a hand, which is possible.

There has been criticism of our

mineral activities, but after a careful analysis of the work that we have tried to do, I cannot see where we could have improved it by making a change in the policies involved.

It is true that unmerited and sometimes vicious, criticism hurts. One is sometimes discouraged in well doing when exploiters of the public get busy and friends are silent. But my policy has been, and will be, to play the game regardless, and as I believe, on the square. It may hurt some old friends and may make some enemies, but I will take whatever comes as a result from an open and above board policy of getting fair returns for the schools from school property.

The next legislature should appropriate enough to take an inventory of all state lands. We should have a map of every farm, a statement of what improvements there are, and the uses to which the lands are devoted, and if used by settler, resident or non-resident, the probable best uses to which each tract may be put, whether it contains potash lakes or other visible valuable substances, or if a field where oil development is likely. It may cost \$20,000 or \$25,000, but it will be worth it.

Later I will make other recommendations.

At present it is my intention to file for re-election. The public should pass upon the policies and service of the office, by approval or otherwise, for the guidance of the department, and as an expression of public desire in protecting and administering state and school property."

MICKIE SAYS

BUH-LEEVIE ME! IF WE'D SET UP SOME OF THIS COPY JEST LIKE IT COMES IN, WITHOUT MAKIN' NO CORRECTIONS NER NUTHIN', SOME OF THE INTELLECTUAL LIGHTS AROUND THIS HERE NECK O' THE WOODS'D LOSE THEIR REPUTATIONS FER BEIN' EDDICATED!



BUY WAR SAVINGS STAMPS.

On and after July 17th,
The Rodgers store will go
on a strictly cash basis and
all accounts must be paid by
August 1. This system will
enable us to sell for less by
avoiding the loss and expense
of bookkeeping.

A. D. RODGERS.

Are the Packers Profiteers?

Plain Facts About the Meat Business

The Federal Trade Commission in its recent report on war profits, stated that the five large meat packers have been profiteering and that they have a monopoly of the market.

These conclusions, if fair and just, are matters of serious concern not only to those engaged in the meat packing business but to every citizen of our country.

The figures given on profits are misleading and the statement that the packers have a monopoly is unsupported by the facts.

The packers mentioned in the report stand ready to prove their profits reasonable and necessary.

The meat business is one of the largest American industries. Any citizen who would familiarize himself with its details must be prepared for large totals.

The report states that the aggregate profits of four large packers were \$140,000,000 for the three war years.

This sum is compared with \$19,000,000 as the average annual profit for the three years before the war, making it appear that the war profit was \$121,000,000 greater than the pre-war profit.

This compares a three-year profit with a one-year profit—a manifestly unfair method of comparison. It is not only misleading, but the Federal Trade Commission apparently has made a mistake in the figures themselves.

The aggregate three-year profit of \$140,000,000 was earned on sales of over four and a half billion dollars. It means about three cents on each dollar of sales—or a mere fraction of a cent per pound of product.

Packers' profits are a negligible factor in prices of live stock and meats. No other large business is conducted upon such small margins of profit.

Furthermore—and this is very important—only a small portion of this profit has been paid in dividends. The balance has been put back into the business. It had to be, as you realize when you consider the problems the packers have had to solve—and solve quickly—during these war years.

To conduct this business in war times, with higher costs and the necessity of paying two or three times the former prices for live stock, has required the use of two or three times the ordinary amount of

working capital. The additional profit makes only a fair return on this, and as has been stated, the larger portion of the profits earned has been used to finance huge stocks of goods and to provide additions and improvements made necessary by the enormous demands of our army and navy and the allies.

If you are a business man you will appreciate the significance of these facts. If you are unacquainted with business, talk this matter over with some business acquaintance—with your banker, say—and ask him to compare profits of the packing industry with those of any other large industry at the present time.

No evidence is offered by the Federal Trade Commission in support of the statement that the large packers have a monopoly. The Commission's own report shows the large number and importance of other packers.

The packers mentioned in the statement stand ready to prove to any fair minded person that they are in keen competition with each other, and that they have no power to manipulate prices.

If this were not true they would not dare to make this positive statement.

Furthermore, government figures show that the five large packers mentioned in the report account for only about one-third of the meat business of the country.

They wish it were possible to interest you in the details of their business. Of how, for instance, they can sell dressed beef for less than the cost of the live animal, owing to utilization of by-products, and of the wonderful story of the methods of distribution throughout this broad land, as well as in other countries.

The five packers mentioned feel justified in co-operating with each other to the extent of together presenting this public statement.

They have been able to do a big job for your government in its time of need; they have met all war time demands promptly and completely and they are willing to trust their case to the fairmindedness of the American people with the facts before them.

Armour and Company
Cudahy Packing Co.
Morris & Company
Swift & Company
Wilson & Company